ROLLING CONVEYING DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention is related to the field of materials handling technology and concerns a conveying device for the conveying of materials, objects and so on, wherein this the device is capable of being equipped with any means for taking on materials or objects. The invention is distinguished by the fact, that with few, inexpensive means any conveying paths or conveying tracks are capable of being created, on which it is possible for a flowing conveyance to take place.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention essentially consists of few components, namely: of one or two guide rails, in which a rolling body or a combination of rollers with a plurality of freely rotating rollers, balls, cylinders, etc. is arranged and with a plurality of conveying bodies capable of being displaced on or between the rollers of the rolling body. The rolling bodies form, for example, circuits closed in themselves, however, they are not chains, because unlike thosechains they are not pulled or pushed.

[0003] Figure 1A and 1B, in an exploded view, illustrate a piece, resp, part of a track, of an exemplary conveying device in accordance with the invention. In this example, one of the guide rails 6 comprises an engagement groove or guide groove 7, in which the rollers 2 of the rolling body 1 are able to rotate freely. The rolling body, as a combination of rollers, consists of a connecting piece 4, on which a plurality of rollers 2 are arranged freely rotatable on axes 3. The same arrangement of guide rail 6' and

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937 Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841 Customer No. 040854 Page 2 of 17

rolling body 1' with rollers 2 is present again in mirror image as a counterpart. In between one is able to see two (out of a plurality) of conveying bodies 10, which on both sides longitudinally comprise an engagement groove or guide groove 11 for the free and undriven running of the rollers 2, in order to get into an operational connection with the roller bodies 1 and 1' and the rails 6 and 6', the latter of which in this depicted embodiment extends from rail 6 to rail 6' and enables a rolling displacement of the conveying bodies 10. The rollers 2 engage in the corresponding guide groove 7 and 11 by up to between 1/5 to 1/3 of the diameters of the rollers utilised. The conveying body 10, schematically illustrated, comprises a receptacle 12 for the attachment of, for example, a clamp for materials to be transported. Not illustrated are: one drive, resp., several drives, with which the conveying bodies 10 are moved, resp., driven. A connecting plate 5, by means of which the two guide rails 6 and 6' are held together and at the same distance from one another, is indicated below them. As stated, all Figures only illustrate a part of a conveying track of any length and with any routing. Variants of itthe conveying track are discussed following the captions of the Figures. [0004] The rolling body 1, resp. 1' and in a further embodiment of the device the rolling body 8 (refer to Figs. A and B) is capable of being designed in the following manner: the The connecting piece 4 is manufactured out of an elastic material, in which the axes 3 for the rollers 2 are fixed. The axes 3 comprise a seat (not depicted here), which prevents the rollers 2 from coming into contact with the connecting piece 4, in other words, which enables the rollers 2 to be freely rotatable. The rollers 2 are put on toonto the axes 3 and at the upper end of the axes 3 are fixed so as to be adequately prevented from becoming detached from themthe axes. In this embodiment, it is possible for the roller bodies to adapt themselves to any track shape Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937

Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841

Customer No. 040854

Page 3 of 17

of the guide rails 6, 6'. Capable of being utilised as materials for the connecting piece

4, for example, are plastic bands (ribbons), for the rollers 2 a rigid plastic material and

for the axes 3 metal pins are usable materials.

[0005] The conveying bodies 10 are able to be manufactured out of the same

material as the rollers 2. These conveying bodies are jointly driven, wherein one

pushes the other one. For a drive of this kind, it is possible to provide an engagement

from below through the connecting plate 5 or laterally on the receptacle 12, for

example, by means of several conveyor drives arranged at a distance from one

another.

[0006] An essential point is that the engagement of the rollers 2 in the guide

grooves 11 may comprise a-relatively large play, without the operability being impaired

by this. This provides the possibility during the manufacturing of producing

components for the device in large numbers without the necessity of a great precision,

which in turn has a very beneficial effect on the cost side. And despite this, for a

mechanical construction, having a relatively loose assembly, the conveying bodies run

in a silkily soft and almost flowing manner, so that it is possible to refer to a kind of

flowing materials handling technology.

[0007] In the following, the object of the invention discussed above is described in

more detail on the basis of preferred examples of embodiments, which are illustrated

in the attached drawings. These depict:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 3 of 17

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937 Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841 Customer No. 040854 Page 4 of 17

- [0008] Figures 1A and 1B are a perspective view and and end view of the embodiment of the rolling conveying device invention described above,
- [0009] Figures 2A and 2B are a perspective view and a front view view of a part of an embodiment with three rolling bodies for guiding the conveying bodies,
- [0010] Figures 3A 3B and 3C <u>are a perspective, end and perspective views,</u>

 respectively of a part of a further embodiment of the invention with a stylised drive for moving the conveying bodies,
- [0011] Figures 4A 4B and 4C are a perspective, top and end view respectively of an embodiment of the invention with a combination of rollers of balls instead of rollers,
- [0012] Figures 5A 5B and 5C are two perspective views and an end view of an embodiment with a stylised drive for the conveying bodies,
- [0013] Figure 6 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the invention with a stylised drive for the conveying bodies.
- [0014] Figures 7A 7B und 7C are a perspective, side and front view of a row of conveying bodies in a three-dimensional curve,
- [0015] Figure 8 is a perspective of conveying bodies with a special form of link joints between one another,
- [0016] Figures 9A and 9B are a perspective view and a detailed view of the conveying device according to the invention as a closed track,
- [0017] Figures 10A and 10B <u>are perspective views of an embodiment of the rolling</u> body, which is especially suitable for tight curve radii,
- [0018] Figures 11A and 11B this shows the embodiment of Fig. 10 with the rolling body depicted with inserted roller bodies and one of the two guide rails,

Customer No. 040854 Page 5 of 17

[0019] Figures 11C and 11D show one element of the rolling body with inserted

balls and a guide body illustrated in a frontal view and in a perspective view,

[0020] Figures 12A and 12B and 12C are perspective views of a further

embodiment of the three elements, a guide body, which comprises both guide rails,

therefore guide rail, rolling body and conveying body, in the case of which one guide

rail is also capable of taking over the function of the second guide rail,

[0021] Figures 13A and 13B and 13C show a side, front and perspective view of an

embodiment of the imitation of the embodiment in accordance with Figure 4, in the

case of which the rolling bodies are also capable of consisting of roller bodies without

any mutual connection.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0022] The reference marks utilised in the drawings and their significance are listed

in summary in the list of reference marks. In general, in the Figures, identical

components or analogous components acting in the same manner are provided with

the same reference marks.

[0023] In this context, the following is to be remarked: the illustrations are in the

form of rough sketches and not finished constructions and all physical depictions are

parts of a whole. It is possible that the whole, respectively, is a track closed in itself, in

which the rolling bodies, the rows of conveying bodies and the guide rails respectively

lead back to themselves.

[0024] The Figures 2A and 2B in an exploded drawing illustrate a part of a different

embodiment of the rolling conveying device. In addition to the embodiment depicted in

Page 5 of 17

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937

Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841

Customer No. 040854

Page 6 of 17

the Figures 1A und 1B, a third rolling body 8 (exceptionally not designated with 1, but

advantageously of the same manufacture as the rolling body 1) is arranged

underneath the conveying bodies 10, the position of which is easily seen in the frontal

view in accordance to Figure 2B. The conveying bodies 10 for guiding the rollers 2 of

the conveying body 8 comprise an engagement groove or guide groove 11'. Equally,

the modified connecting plate 5' comprises an engagement groove or guide groove 7',

in analogy the guide rails. It is possible that the depth of the guide groove 11' in the

conveying bodies 10 amounts to less than 1/5 of the diameter of the rollers utilised. It

is also conceivable that one completely makes do without them (the guide grooves) on

the conveying bodies and that the rollers 2 only serve to support a load. This

embodiment, for example, is suitable for heavy loads, in the case of which the

additional rolling body 8 is capable of taking over a significant part of the load. In

addition, the designing of the rollers 2, resp., of the rolling body 8 as a combination of

rollers is able to be implemented especially for greater loads. The same is applicable

for the guide rails 6, 6', 5.

[0025] This embodiment, for example, is suitable for a contour-oriented

conveyance, that is, over several levels, of articles such as packages in postal

distribution centrescenters or of travellers' baggage at airports. The flowing,

non-jolting, not awkward and as continuous as possible conveyance by means of an

inexpensive installation is always a requirement of the market, which is easy to fulfil

with a device of this kind in accordance with the invention.

[0026] The Figures 3A, 3B and 3C in an exploded view illustrate a part of a further

embodiment. The conveying body 10 is designed in the shape of a kind of prism with

essentially 60 degree angles. The two rolling bodies 1 and 1' are arranged

Page 6 of 17

Customer No. 040854

Page 7 of 17

orthogonally to the surface of the conveying body, so that they themselves are inclined

towards one another (in essence they form a 120 degree angle). At the ,tip tip

between the rollers 2, a receptacle 12 for the attachment of a means, for example, a

clamp, a hook or something similar is arranged. In the oppositely situated flat side a

conveying toothing 9 is to be seenshown and above it, stylised, a drive unit 20 with a

drive motor 19, which through a shaft 18 is capable of driving a star-shaped drive

wheel 16 here in both directions of rotation, refer to the double arrow. In the case of

longer conveying stretches, drive units 20 of this kind are arranged distributed over the

complete rolling conveying device. It is more advantageous to provide several drive

units distributed over the conveying stretch than a single one. Thus, a , distribution of

gaps'gaps is to be expected instead of a single large gap immediately behind the

single drive. In this context, it, of course, has to be observed that every drive unit has

to provide the same conveying speed for the system, which with current means for

controlling motors does not represent a problem.

[0027] This embodiment is suitable, for example, for being arranged arrangement

at the ceiling of a room. Figure 3C illustrates an attachment to a ceiling 15, which, for

example, may also have the appearance of a U bent together at the legs and which on

its upper side comprises fixing holes 14, through which it is able to be attached to the

ceiling. In the region of the guide rails, one is able to see fixing screws, by means of

which the ceiling attachment is connected with the guide rails. Attachments of this

kind, as is-illustrated in the Figure, are also capable of being directly combined with a

drive. It is also possible that an embodiment of this kind of suspension and drive is

arranged distributed over the whole conveying stretch.

Page 7 of 17

Page 8 of 17

[0028] The Figures 3A, 3B, 3C, in a stylised form, each respectively illustrate a part of the rolling conveying device with only a single conveying body of many, and respectively in detail the rolling bodies 1,1' and the guide rails 6,6' and a drive 20 with a cover 15, which latter element is conceived as a suspension device and which is capable of being arranged at a distance between one another along the whole conveying track.

The Figures 4A and 4B and 4C illustrate a further embodiment, in which as the combination of rollers instead of rollers balls 2' (in analogy to the rollers 2) are utilised. In the Figures 4A and 4B the conveying bodies 10 are drawn somewhat pulled apart, in order that it is possible to see the balls through the gap produced. In assembled form, the conveying bodies pushing one another do not have a significant gap; the gap between the guide rails 6 and 6' and the conveying bodies 10 amounts to approximately 1/3 of the diameter of the balls utilised. The guide grooves 7, 11 are, of course, adapted to the ball shape. Furthermore, (Fig. 4A) on the roller bodies 1, 1' one is able to identify the connecting bodies 4 for receiving the balls 2'.

[0030] The Figures 5A, 5B and 5C illustrate a stylised depiction of a possible drive 20 for the specific displacement of the conveying bodies 10, on which manipulators for the product not illustrated here, for example, grippers for flat objects are able to be attached. A here star-shaped drive wheel 16 guided within a fixing block 17, which engages at the bottom side of the conveying bodies 10 (as an example, refer to the conveyor toothing 9 in Figure 3A and in Figure 5C), is driven by a drive motor 19 through a drive shaft 18. It goes without saying, that also other types of engagement between the drive and the driven parts are conceivable, such as, for example, toothings as are utilised for gearwheels. The drive is controlled as required. It is, if so

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937 Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841 Customer No. 040854 Page 9 of 17

required, possible that it drives in two directions of rotation, refer to the double arrow, so that the conveying bodies 10 in the Figure are capable of being displaced to the left or to the right. The conveyance of the whole plurality formed by the conveying bodies 10, in the closed in itself track, is considered to be the drive in the conveying device. Individual drive units 20 are capable of being attached at different points, at which, depending on the length of the conveying track, a further drive is required, this also in

the context of the ,gap distribution'gap distribution already mentioned above.

[0031] Figure 6 illustrates a stylised depiction of a further possible drive 20 for the specific displacement of the conveying bodies, on which it is possible to attach manipulators for the product, for example, grippers. A here-sector-shaped drive wheel 16', in analogy to the star-shaped drive wheel 16, is driven through a drive shaft 18 by a drive motor 19, for example, a stepping motor. To be seen Shown here is a stylised holding device, here a fixing block 17 for the drive shaft 18. The drive angle of the drive wheel 16' is adjusted as required and depending on the situation. It may amount to 360 angular degrees or also to only a part of this and this as per requirement in two directions (refer to the double arrow), so that the conveying bodies 10 in the Figure are able to be displaced to the left or to the right, also, however, only in parts, if, for example, an accurate positioning during standstill is necessary. This concerns the conveying, respectively, of all conveying bodies together simultaneously.

[0032] The Figures 7A, 7B and 7C one the one hand, as an example, depict a form of 4 conveying bodies 10 out of the plurality of all and on the other hand a placing together of these in such a manner, that, for example, they are capable of being conveyed in engagement with one another in a slight curve of a track bent in two directions 9 (sideways and upwards). The conveying bodies 10 comprise a stylised

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937

Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841

Customer No. 040854

Page 10 of 17

receptacle 12 for the attachment of a means, to which, for example, it is possible to

attach manipulators. Also visible are the guide grooves 11 for the engagement of the

rollers 2 of the roller bodies 1 and 1'. Because the conveying bodies 10, when they are

not coupled together, are always pushed and not pulled, it is advantageous through

the shaping of the contact points between two conveying bodies, by slanting faces 21

at a certain angle W to the external edge, to provide these with the characteristics of a

movable extended conveying body. Figure 7C illustrates the frontal view of the row,

the tumbling motion of the conveying bodies on their track, which is bent in two

directions, is well visible here.

[0033] Figure 8 illustrates another example of an embodiment, similar asto the

embodiment in the Figures 7A, 7B, 7C, however, for smaller radii in the conveying

tracks. A fourth conveying body is depicted at a greater distance from the others, in

order to make the shaping more visible in the zone, in which the conveying bodies are

in contact with one another. The slanting faces 21 comprise a greater angle W to the

longitudinal edge of the conveying body than in the case of the Figures 7 A, B, C. As a

further embodiment, three conveying bodies 10, as an example for all conveying

bodies 10 of a device, are joined together through a connecting means 13, for example,

an elastic connection. This makes the assembly easier and also the manipulation in

case of a possible overhaul, one does not have to put individual components together

to form a track, which have to be inserted between the roller bodies in a certain

direction to one another. It is possible that the guide bodies are also supported on all

sides, for example, as a ball shell or mutually, as illustrated in the Figure, in order to be

capable of absorbing forces.

Page 10 of 17

Page 11 of 17

[0034] The Figures 9A and 9B illustrate an example of a closed in itself track. As already pointed out above, the components guide rails 6, 6' and roller bodies 2, 2' and conveying bodies 10 lead back to themselves as a closed track and therefore form a closed track, which may be spatially arranged in any way required. In Figure 9A this, for example, is a ring-shaped track, which cut open at one point comprises a gap L, in order to depict, as in the detailed Figure 9B, the here also stylised components guide rails 6, 6', roller bodies with rollers 2 and conveying bodies 10 with the receptacle 12 of a means of attachment. These parts are visible visibly enlarged in the detailed drawing 9B.

[0035] The-Figures 10A and 10B illustrate an embodiment, in the case of which the rolling bodies 1, 1' (here only with one receptacle 22 or opening for the roller bodies) and the connecting pieces 4 form a unit and these are connected to one another through a connecting body 4, resp., by means of a connecting means 4'. This embodiment is particularly suitable for a-conveyance around curves with small radii. Figure 10A depicts a curvature in a first curvature direction and Figure 10B a (rotated by 90 degrees) second curvature direction. Evident from this is also a further curvature direction 180 degrees opposite to Figure 10A and corresponding to Figure 10B. Therefore with this embodiment it is possible not only to convey on tracks bent with curves, but also on spiral-shaped tracks.

[0036] The connecting piece 4 and rolling body 1, 1' form a unit; each individual part in these Figures comprises two receptacles 22 for receiving, resp., for respectively building-in a roller body, namely rollers 2, balls 2', cylinders 2", etc., wherein a plurality of roller bodies arranged in this manner each respectively form a first and a second rolling body 1, resp., 1'. A plurality of components of this kind are

Page 12 of 17

connected together by means of a connecting piece 4'; it is also possible that they are

connected together in an articulated manner. The distance between the units, which

may be selected in accordance with the application concerned, has a direct influence

on the curve radius to be mastered. In Figure 10B it is easily visible, that in the case of

this ,bend' the distances are able to be short and in Figure 10A one sees, that these

distances are limited by the structural shape of the conveying body, This all the more

so, when the rolling bodies 1, 1' connected through the connecting body 4 are brought

to be bent rotated by 180 degrees to Figure 10A.

The Figures 11A and 11B illustrate the just discussed embodiment with [0037]

roller bodies in the form of balls 2' and in addition with one 6 of the two guide rails 6, 6'.

Figure 11A depicts the curve from above, wherein in the operable condition the balls of

course engage in the guide groove 7. From a different perspective in Figure 11B one,

however, because of the perspective distortion one does not anymore_see all the balls

2' of the roller bodies 1, 1'anymore. But this depiction is suitable for demonstrating,

how it is possible to put together a conveying device of this type.

The Figures 11C and 11D illustrate an element or a part of the rolling body / [0038]

the roller bodies 1, 1' with inserted balls 2' as roller bodies and with a conveying body

10 depicted in a simple manner arranged in between them.

[0039] Figure 12A illustrates a rolling body 1, resp., 1' with roller bodies, here

rollers 2 or cylinders 2", (also balls 2' are able to be utilised), in the case of which the

roller axis has been replaced by two opposing pointed cones 24. These roller bodies

are brought into a connecting body 4, which comprises receptacles 22 for all kinds of

roller bodies, rollers, balls, cylinders, etc. This rolling body 1 preferably is designed to

be elastic, not, however, flexible, so that it is capable of running around curve radii in a

Page 12 of 17

Customer No. 040854

Page 13 of 17

bendable manner, depicted with double arrows in different directions, but nonetheless is sufficiently rigid, in order that the inserted rollers 2 or cylinders 2" have a secure grip. A rolling body of this kind is capable of being manufactured in any length; it is also possible that it comprises standardised lengths and that it is arranged in sections

between conveying bodies 10 and guide rails 6, 6'. In the following, an interesting

application of a rolling body of this kind will be discussed.

The Figures 12B and 12C now illustrate from two perspectives a utilisation [0040] of the rolling body in accordance with Figure 12A. One sees a guide body 26, which comprises two guide rails 6 and 6'. The guide rails 6,6' are curved and here implemented in one piece, in other words, the guide body 26 is designed in such a manner, that on one side the one and on the other side the other guide for the conveying bodies and rolling bodies are arranged or mouldedmolded. The conveying bodies 10 in correspondence with this one-piece design comprise a guide groove 11 for rolling off the roller bodies 2" of the rolling body 1 on the one side of the guide rail, namely the part 6 and, stylistically depicted, on the other side, therefore opposite, rollers 2, which may also be fixed rollers (sliders), which run along the guide rail, namely the part 6'. This compact embodiment is particularly suitable, when for reasons of space, for example, in passages through walls or along walls or transitions between floor levels or in case of a spiral-shaped course of the track, a volume as small as possible is permitted. For greater loads one weighs down the conveying bodies 10 in such a manner, that they are seated on the rolling body 1 and for smaller loads it is possible to select the suspended operation, in which they move along the guide rail 6' together with the rolling body 1'.

Customer No. 040854 Page 14 of 17

[0041] Both Figures depict three conveying bodies 10 in different positions. A first

conveying body is in engagement with the guide rail 6 on the one side and with the

guide rail 6' on the other side. Between the guide groove 11 of the conveying body 10

and the guide groove 7 of the guide rail 6, the rolling body 1, of which a part only is

depicted, is slid in; on the other side there is the rolling body 1', split-up over the rolling

bodies, with rollers 2 in engagement with the guide rail 6'. The space for the rolling

body 1 is easily visible in Figure 12B. A second conveying body is not in engagement

with the guide rail, the rolling body 1, however, is located close to the guide groove 11,

which is easily visible in Figure 12C. A third conveying body is depicted without

engagement above the guide rail 6, so that it is easy to recognise its construction. This

type of depiction was selected in order to on the one hand be in a position to illustrate

clearly the engagement of the components into one another and on the other hand the

components themselves. In It goes without saying that in case of an installation the

length of the track with the roller bodies and any number of conveying bodies is

dimensioned in a manner to suit the requirements.

[0042] The-Figures 13A, 13B and 13C illustrate a further embodiment, in the case

of which the rolling bodies 1, 1' consist of a plurality of roller bodies, which are not

connected together, here balls 2' within a spacer cage 27 (with receptacles for roller

bodies 22), which are arranged in such a manner, that they are close together and

located between the conveying body 10 and the guide rail 6. This embodiment follows

the embodiment of 4, but manifests a particularity, which plays a role in case of curves

in the track. The roller bodies, here balls 2', are arranged to be rotatable in the spacer

cage 27 and the ring-shaped receptacle 22 for roller bodies. The spacer cage 27

Page 14 of 17

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937 Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841 Customer No. 040854 Page 15 of 17

serves not only for receiving the balls 2', it also serves as a spacer between the guide rails and the conveying bodies, which Figure 13A clearly depicts. Figure 13B is the frontal view of Figure 13A and illustrates the conveying body 10 with guide grooves 11, which through a special construction between the balls 2' and groove comprise a play in such a manner, that the conveying body 10 is capable of being displaced in the direction of the double arrow D transverse to the guide grooves 7, 7' of the guide rails 6, 6' (guide rail 6' not depicted), which is depicted in the form of a slight dislocation of the conveying body 10 out of its longitudinal axis. In case of a curve of the guide rails, here upwards or downwards, the rigid conveying bodies 10 extending over two balls 2' are capable of so to say tilting over the track radius, which is illustrated in Figure 13C with a double arrow D. Figure 13C in a perspective view illustrates the arrangement in principle, wherein on the opposite side of the guide rail 6 in addition a ball element 2' of the rolling body 1' of an equal plurality is depicted, to which then the second, not illustrated, guide rail 6' is able to adjoin.

In general, it is possible to summarise the invention as follows. A conveying device comprises at least one conveying body 10 as well as rolling bodies 1, 1' in operational interaction with it with a plurality, at least, however, with two rolling bodies such as rollers 2, balls 2', cylinders 2", etc., which rolling bodies 1, 1' are arranged on guide rails 6, 6', 5 and the at least one conveying body in such a manner, that the roller bodies 2, 2', 2" during the displacement of the at least one conveying body 10 are able to rotate freely. The rolling bodies 1, 1' form a combination of rollers, which, for example, is capable of comprising rollers 2 and/or balls 2' or cylinders 2", etc. It is possible that the device comprises one or several rolling bodies 1, 1'. Two rolling bodies 1, 1' are able to be located opposite one another at a straight angle relative to

Page 16 of 17

the conveying body 10. It is also possible that this angle is not straight. A third rolling body 8 may be arranged relative to two rolling bodies 1, 1' in such a manner, that it is

capable of absorbing additional load force. The conveying bodies 10 as a rule are

driven, not, however, the rolling bodies 1, 1', 8. The combination of rollers serves as a

rolling support for the conveyed conveying bodies 10 and is arranged between these

and the guide rails 6, 6', 5. To the conveying bodies 10 different types of means for the

transportation of the conveyed goods are capable of being attached. It is also possible

that they are connected together in a chain-like manner.

[0044] The three sub-assemblies guide rail, rolling body and conveying body are respectively designed in accordance with the application in question. If one considers the absolute mutual speeds together, then the following is applicable:

$$V_{Guide\ rail} = 0$$
 and

and they are connected together in a positive interlocking manner, but guided loosely to one another, which on the one hand has the effect of making the manufacturing costs lower and on the other hand reduces the wear.

[0045] LIST OF REFERENCE MARKS

- 1 First rolling body, 1' second rolling body
- 2 Rollers
- 3 Roller axes
- 4 Connecting bodies
- 4' Connection means for the rolling bodies
- 5 Connection plate / floor plate
- 5' Third engagement groove, resp., guide groove
- 6 First guide rail, 6' second guide rail

Page 16 of 17

Marked-up Copy of Substitute Specification Serial No. 10/598,937 Filed September 15, 2006 Attorney Docket No. FRR-16841 Customer No. 040854 Page 17 of 17

7	First engagement groove, resp., guide groove, 7' second engagement
	groove, resp., guide groove
8	Third rolling body
9	Conveying toothing
10	Driven conveying bodies
11	Engagement groove, resp., guide groove on the conveying body
12	Receptacle for the attachment of a means
13	Connection means for the conveying bodies
14	Attachment holes
15	Ceiling attachment
16	Drive wheel for the conveying bodies
17	Fixing block
18	Drive shaft
19	Drive motor
20	Drive unit
21	Slanted face on the conveying body
22	Receptacle for roller bodies
23	Attachment
24	Cone
25	Ball cage
26	Guide body
27	Spacer cage